



COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE

Annual Planning Retreat Summary May 18, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Andrews, Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, Hashan Chowdhury, Michelle Green, Diana Holzberger, Brigid Howe, Linda Janulis, Edward Krauze, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Shaun Rose, Laura Seminario-Thornton, Claudia Simmons, Greg Smith, Barbara Warman, and Mayme Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lindsey Allard Agnamba, Pamela Dunn, Carl Eggleston, Yvonne Iscandari, April Kaplan, and Monica Sanchez

STAFF PRESENT: Erin Stillwell and Sarah Wilch-Spamer, DHHS

Icebreaker Activity: Provide one word to describe why you joined CCC:

To help

Networking

Fairness

Advocacy

Inclusion

Information

Clueless

Sharing stories

Care

Community engagement

Work assignment

Grounding

Anger

Collaboration

Learning

Change

Continuum

Priorities/Recommendations from 2015-16 Commission Year:

- 1) Ensure that the Working Parents Assistance Program supports families' access to quality child care by implementing the recommendations of the Working Parents Assistance Program Workgroup and substantially increasing funding.
- 2) Create a more transparent, uniform and consistent system for Child Care in Public Space that better serves families and children and better encourages and facilitates the operation of high quality child care programs.

Open Discussion: Did we meet our stated priorities/recommendations from the past commission year?

- Raised awareness about WPA and State Child Care Subsidy needs
- CUPF/Child Care in Public Space-Continue to monitor; waiting release of CUPF audit (expected at the end of June 2016).
- Bill 13-15-Child Care Expansion and Quality Enhancement Initiative: waiting on full funding
- Workforce/Economic Development Impact: Created opportunities to network/educate some in the business community about the issues in the child care community as it relates to the workforce

Open Discussion: Does the Commission want to continue working on the same priorities in the next commission year?

- Continue to advocate and raise awareness about need to continue funding WPA and Stated Child Care Subsidy needs
- Continue to monitor the CUPF process and review audit once it is released
- Make recommendations to the County Exec. and County Council to seek funding sources outside of WPA (alone) to help fund child care programs; look to see if extra tax dollars can be used to help fund child care programs

Brainstorming: New priorities for the next commission year?

- Educate the general public about early childhood education; do this via town hall meetings
 - Educate the general public and elected officials about what it takes to actually "run" a child care center or family child care home
 - Inform the general public and elected officials of what a "day in the life" of a child care provider looks like to help change public perception of the nuts/bolts of child care
- Educate the community about this issue of "affordability" in child care
- Work to help professionalize the field of child care in the effort to help create universal standards for quality care

- Many mandates and training requirements for providers, but limited funds for training and implementation
- Should CCC only be focusing of early childhood education? Should issues that impact before/after care programs also be brought to the table for discussion?
- CCC needs to advise the County Council that a “train wreck” is going to occur if too many demands continue to be placed on child care providers, too many regulations on centers/home, along with the issue of increased minimum wage
- Need to have a legislative day where various members of the child care community can educate elected officials about the issues impacting the child care communities and the families that they serve:
 - Provide numbers/metrics on costs/affordability
 - Highlight how quality child care impacts the greater good (children, families and employers)
 - Connect the issue of child care to the issue of workforce development; both in providing quality and reliable care for the workforce as well as employing members of the workforce as child care providers

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.